

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /064 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GDKULICK:NB

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

S/CCT:ESCHAEFER

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O P 152114Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

NAVCOMMUNIT PRIORITY

COMNAVTELCOMWASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI PRIORITY

JCS/NMCC WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORVA PRIORITY

CINCLANTFLT NORVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, T

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON CISCO KIDNAPPING

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO DEPT SPOKES-

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MAN FOR USE ON IF-ASKED BASIS:

"QUESTION: CAN YOU CONFIRM
THE REPORT THAT SOME AMERICANS
HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED IN ASMARA, ETHIOPIA?

ANSWER: YES , TWO AMERICAN CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AT THE
TRANSMISSION SITE OF THE KAGNEW COMMUNICATIONS STATION ,
ALONG WITH FOUR ETHIOPIANS, WERE ABDUCTED AT GUNPOINT YESTER-
DAY MORNING. THE TWO AMERICANS, STEVE CAMPBELL AND JIM
HARREL, ARE EMPLOYEES OF COLLINS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
COMPANY (CISCO).

QUESTION: WHO KIDNAPPED THEM AND WHAT IS THEIR OBJECTIVE?

ANSWER: WE DO NOT YET HAVE ANY FIRM INFORMATION ON THE
IDENTITY OF THE KIDNAPPERS. THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO CON-
TACT WITH THEM, AND NO MESSAGES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOING ABOUT IT?

ANSWER: WE HAVE INFORMED THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OF
THE INCIDENT AND ADVISED THEM THAT WE CONSIDER THAT IT IS
THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO
BRING ABOUT THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. WE HAVE,
OF COURSE, OFFERED TO BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. THE
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SECURITY
FORCES TO PROTECT US INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL REMAINING
IN ASMARA. THERE ARE ABOUT FIFTY AMERICANS THERE, IN-
CLUDING TEN EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL.

QUESTION: IS THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT INVOLVED IN
THIS INCIDENT?

ANSWER: WE HAVE HAD NO CONFIRMED REPORTS CONCERNING
THE IDENTITY OF THE ABDUCTORS.

QUESTION: WILL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PAY RANSOM IF
DEMANDED?

ANSWER: OUR POLICY IN THAT REGARD IS WELL KNOWN. "
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2. NOTE: QUESTION DID NOT ARISE AT TUESDAY PRESS BRIEF-
ING. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, BUSINESSMEN, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE166289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GDKULICK:NB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750244-0754
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750754/aaaabwfw.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE ON CISCO KIDNAPPING
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CASC, ET, US, (CAMPBELL, STEVEN C), (HARRELL, JAMES J)
To: ASMAR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006